

DDA Minutes - ZOOM
August 19, 2020
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

DDA Members Present: Sarah Murphy Sam Burch Joe Clark
Addison Lester Nancy Musselwhite Dan Vano
Jamie Wyatt

Staff Present: Brian Wismer Joyce Waits Julie Herbert
Nicole Gilbert Mike Bush David Rast

Call to Order:

Murphy called the August 19, 2020 meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Lester and seconded by Vano to approve the July 15, 2020 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

DCA Monthly Report and Downtown Developments:

Wismer gave the DCA monthly report for the month of July

The report for July again has additional reporting due to COVID-19.

- Businesses in Downtown temporarily closed: 0
- Number of Main Street Managed/Planned Events cancelled or rescheduled: 1
- Financial Impact of cancelled events: \$50,000
- Volunteer Hours: 73.50
- New Business Openings: 10
- Jobs from New Business Openings: 24
- Business Relocations: 2
- Jobs from Business Relocations: 5
- Private Rehab Projects - \$8,000 – Total 1

Wismer stated the following:

- Vehicle backed into the back entrance of Gremlin Growlers. Driver was driving a company vehicle and company insurance will take care of the damages. Wismer also stated that the Georgia Power box was old and needs to be replaced, and will start on getting pricing for the repair.
- Stonewall Avenue road diet project bids came in. The lowest bid was \$129,000 and is good for 60 days. The City is working on getting the funding source. Wismer presented the rendering and stated that this will help to slow traffic by having 2 lanes and adding 7 spaces for a net gain of 15 parking spaces.
- Meeting has been scheduled this week with Meridian on the Square, and will hopefully receive good news on this project. Musselwhite asked Wismer if there were any problems with the project moving forward. Wismer stated that there are some engineering problems on site. Murphy stated that since they have not closed on two properties, she might question their commitment.
- Burch asked Wismer if there was a contract on the bank building.

Holliday Dorsey-Fife Museum:

Gilbert reported the following:

- Debi Riddle, a long time docent resigned. Gilbert will be working on getting additional docents. Sandra Utt, another long time docent will be retiring soon as well.
- Gilbert stated that they will be looking for volunteers for the Cemetery Walk scheduled for October 16 and 17. At this time, the decision has not been made 100% to go forward with the event.

Financial Report:

Bush gave the financial report for the month of July.

HDF – Bush stated that there was a \$33,000 hit in July. The reason for this was a budgeted salary split, however, this was not entered in the Payroll system, therefore, the payroll adjustment is in the budget.

Bush stated that there is \$144,000 of excise tax in the budget, but will likely show a \$50,000 loss due to COVID-19 effect. Bush stated that his opinion is to cut costs or use fund balance. Wyatt asked Bush what could be cut out; salary? Bush stated that he will meet with Wismer to determine what can be cut and report back to DDA at the next meeting.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business:

Executive Session – to discuss acquisition or sale of real estate

Motion by Burch and seconded by Musselwhite to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lester and seconded by Clark to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Discussion:

Wisner presented the new direction for the Alleyway design. Wisner stated that he has called Brewer who owns the bank property several times to discuss placing a parking deck on the property. Wyatt asked if the owner is still allowing parking in the back of his building. Wisner stated that cars are still parking there, and that the owner has not indicated a problem with this.

Lester asked Wisner for an update on the Bus Barn and Gym. Wisner stated that the preliminary renderings look good. Clark stated that the designs were beautiful.

Clark stated that the brewery on Lee Street is going forward with their project. The owner is still working on the designs, and that he was given an extension last year. Murphy is concerned that he is not doing enough to not be in violation.

Burch stated that the leased space at 119 S Glynn where the invitation shop was located is looking really good. Wisner stated that it will open later this week; so be sure to look for the window coverings to come down, which will indicate that they are open.

Lester asked about the Walton Community and when they would be starting. Wisner stated that plans are in place, however, due to COVID-19, things are not moving. Financing and permits are in place to our understanding.

Burch asked about the future of the remaining concerts. Wisner stated that we can't sell to normal capacity, and the last two shows have been moved to 2021. Wisner stated that September 12 – Departure and September 26 – Van Halen tribute has been added. September 19 concert has no change and has been part of the regular series. Wisner stated that he is looking to replace Don Felder with an Eagles Concert, as well as bring back Purple Madness (Prince Tribute) around the end of October or first part of November.

Adjourn:

Motion by Musselwhite and seconded by Burch to adjourn the August 19, 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Joyce Waits